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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Operations Group, FBIS DATE: 6 May 1968

FROM : Chief, London Bureau

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - April 1968

I. GENERAL

A. The bureau's previous all-time record for wordage on a particular day, established on 9 December 1964 with a total of 124,900 words, was exceeded twice in April -- 128,500 on the 11th and 136,400 on the 22d. Of these amounts PMU produced 36,500 and 41,000, respectively. A recent study based on yearly figures shows that the bureau's average daily file increased from 52,000 words in 1963 to 64,800 words in 1967. The bureau's daily average wordage for the first four months of 1968, including PMU wirefile production, was 80,200. (See II A 3 for April wordage)

B. Following a series of incidents involving poor handling of flash material by BBC, bureau officers met with BBC personnel on 24 April to discuss ways to speed up delivery of flashes and follow-up textual material from the BBC Listening Room to bureau editors. Proposals agreed upon include revision and definition of FBIS flash requirements, reorientation of BBC supervisors and monitors regarding FBIS requirements and adherence to distribution procedures, and possible installation of an intercom system for orally alerting London Bureau editors to certain urgent developments. As an outgrowth of the meeting a bureau representative attends each day's BBC operational meeting. Details of the discussions are contained in a letter to Headquarters.

C. PMU added three newspapers to its coverage during April and is now exploiting all 10 Soviet papers designated by Headquarters as having first priority. Two more Russian linguists became operational during the month. After Headquarters advised that London Bureau would no longer be responsible for coverage of East European newspapers, one Polish translator was reassigned to Russian. Plans for further adjustments are being reported in a letter to Headquarters. The duplex circuit between Caversham and PMU was upgraded to 100 wpm on 2 April.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial

1. In response to a Headquarters request, the bureau on 3 April prepared a roundup of noncommunist reaction to President Johnson's 31 March speech to the nation and filed a heavy volume of communist comment on the event. All-source reaction to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, continuing developments in Czechoslovakia and Poland, and Kosygin's visit to Pakistan also produced a high volume of material during April.

2. The bureau editors manual was completed and a copy sent to Headquarters as requested.

3. Bureau wordage, including press monitoring production, totaled 2,802,750 in April compared with 2,652,500 the previous month. Daily average wordage was 93,500 (85,500 last month) with the file exceeding 100,000 words 16 times during the month. The highest combined Caversham-PMU file was 136,400 and the lowest 31,600.

B. Press Monitoring

1. The bureau's total wordage for April included 595,500 words of wirefile and airmail material translated by PMU on 20 workdays and 4,800 words filed by Caversham from monitoring of the British press. Daily average wordage translated by PMU was 30,000, about 95 percent of which was wirefiled. PMU production per man-day was 2,600 words.

C. BBC Operations

1. On 23 April the BBC's emergency standby Diesel generator broke down when a broken valve stem exploded through the top of a piston. To insure continuity of operations in the event of a main power failure, the Monitoring Service arranged for the loan of a mobile generator while major repairs to the stationary generator were carried out. Repairs were completed and the normal emergency power source restored on 30 April.

D. Lateral Services

1. In response to a request by the American Embassy, Rome, the bureau arranged for BBC to monitor a series of weekly talks on NATO broadcast by Budapest in Italian. Copies of the processed items are being airpouched to the Embassy, and pertinent material wirefiled to Washington.

2. A recent survey shows that London Bureau lateral consumers, excluding other FBIS bureaus, increased from seven in 1960 to 63 in 1968.

E. Communications

1. Performance of bureau circuits again improved in April, with the percentage of overall outage time being 1.4 compared with 1.7 in March. The London-Frankfurt (LFA-FLA) circuit continued stable, and there was only one preemption (1 hour 20 minutes) of the LFA leg during the month.

2. The duplex circuit between Caversham and PMU, Wembley Park, was upgraded from 66 to 100 wpm on 2 April. PMU is using 66-wpm M-19/M-15 equipment as a backup pending receipt of further 100-wpm equipment from Headquarters.

3. On 9 April a representative of U.K. Communications Region, South Ruislip AFB, confirmed that the Air Force had received official instructions to take over responsibility for preparatory work, installation, and testing of London Bureau's AUTODIN facility. Apparently the Army is still responsible for supplying the equipment.

4. After being advised by the Air Force that faults on circuits LWA, LWB, LFA, and UDA (common user) should now be reported to High Wycombe AFB instead of Croughton, and efforts to reterminate the bureau's direct-speech "order wire" at Wycombe proved unsuccessful, the bureau decided to cancel the circuit effective 1 May. Bureau operators will in future use the normal GPO telephone service to contact Technical Control at High Wycombe. Cancellation of the direct-speech circuit will result in a saving of over $1,200 a year.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Personnel

1. Editor Phillip Schneider arrived at Caversham 2 April on PCS from Headquarters.

2. Editor John Ransom Clark and family departed Caversham 25 April on PCS to Washington.

3. PMU linguist Helen Williams was married to Mr. Anatoly Kurdynovsky, a British citizen, on 29 March.

B. Property

1. After a study revealed that the number of IBM belts sent to BBC by the Mediterranean Bureau about equals the amount BBC gives to London Bureau for archives, it was agreed with Mediterranean Bureau that belts sent to Caversham would no longer be returned. Envelopes and styrofoam liners originally supplied by Medburo will be returned from time to time. BBC will continue to replace the belts it receives from the Austrian Bureau. Headquarters had previously agreed to the system.

IV. OFFICIAL VISITS

A. To the Bureau

1. Mr. Gordon France, VOA, and Mr. E.A. Beaumont, BBC External Services engineer, visited the bureau 8 April. They were in Caversham to inspect Crowsley in connection with a possible move from Tatsfield.

2. M/Sgt. G.A. Shaw, Plans and Programs Unit, U.K. Comm Region, South Ruislip AFB, visited the bureau 9 April to discuss AUTODIN and to brief bureau officers on recent developments.

C. Robert Swanson

C. ROBERT SWANSON

Attachments:
1. Monthly Traffic Report
2. Monthly Outage Report
3. Receipt of Non-expendable Property
4. PMU Production and Manpower Report

cc: Chief, Mediterranean Bureau, FBIS
Chief, Austrian Bureau, FBIS
COS, American Embassy, London

Attachment I

Monthly Traffic Report Summary - April 1968

A.	Originated by London Bureau		
	- to Washington	3,239,000	
	- to others	3,063,500	
		total:	6,302,500
B.	Relayed via London Wireroom		
	- to Washington	1,919,500	
	- to others	667,500	
		total:	2,587,000
C.	Relayed (electronically and manually)		
	- to BBC from all bureaus	total:	4,612,500
		grand total:	13,502,000

Attachment II

Monthly Outage Report - April 1968

		6-month average Hrs/min	%	Last month Hrs/min	%	This month Hrs/min	%
A.	Allocated Channels						
	LWA	40.37	5.6	26.16	3.5	10.02	1.4
	LWB	33.55	4.6	22.21	3.0	6.14	.8
	LWC	10.34	1.4	5.32	.7	2.27	.3
				54.09	2.4	18.43	.8
B.	Common User						
	UDA	3.32	.5	2.58	.3	6.28	.9
C.	Other Channels						
	LEA	-	-	-	-	1.21	.3
	LFA	53.57	10.5	1.55	.3	4.07	.8
	LKA	45.49	6.3	43.12	5.8	34.31	4.7
	LPA	-	-	-	-	2.20	.9
				102.14	1.7	67.30	1.4

Attachment III

Receipt of Nonexpendable Items - April 1968

Negative

Attachment IV

PMU Production and Manpower Report - April 1968

I Production (words)

A. Selection Lists:

USSR	25,960
Eastern Europe	2,630
	28,590

B. Translations:

	Wire	Mail	Total
Albanian	60,900	11,400	72,300
Polish	5,500	-	5,500
Russian	499,500	18,200	517,700
	565,900	29,600	595,500

II Manpower (British Staff man-hours)

	Operations	Training	Leave
Press Analyst	1,758	508	134
Editorial Assistants	234	78	8
Typist/Teletypists	787		13
	2,779	586	155

Total man-hours: 3,520

III Days of Operation: 20

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I. Operations

A. PMU during April began monitoring ECONOMIC GAZETTE, LITERARY GAZETTE, and PRAVDA UKRAINY, thus extending its coverage to include all 10 Soviet newspapers on the first-priority list established by Headquarters.

B. Coverage of Albanian newspapers for all "current" and "basic" information continued throughout the month.

C. During April PMU produced 28,590 words of selection lists and 595,500 words of translations. Wirefiled material totaled 565,900 words. Distributed among the 12 press monitors who actually produced the translations, exclusive of leave time, this production worked out to 2,600 words per man-day.

D. During the month, Russian linguist trainees Anthony Curran and Evelyn Corrin achieved operational level, leaving Helen Kurdynovsky and Irena Podleska (see below) the only Russian translators in trainee status.

E. After being advised by Headquarters in its 17 April letter that PMU would no longer be responsible for coverage of the East European press, Russian/Polish linguist Irena Podleska was reassigned from Polish to Russian. Other adjustments, to be implemented later, are being reported in a letter to Headquarters.

F. With the upgrading of the Caversham-PMU teletype circuit to 100 wpm, coverage coordination procedures between Caversham and PMU were readjusted, with additional categories of information being wirefiled instead of mailed to PMU. Wirefiling of material to PMU now continues overnight and on weekends whereas before it was restricted to PMU's hours of operation.

G. Newspaper receipts were regular throughout the month.

II. Personnel

A program was initiated for interviewing and testing, but not clearing, a limited number of Russian linguists in order to establish a short list of qualified applicants. Subject to security clearance, future vacancies will be offered to personnel on this list. Two applicants were interviewed and tested in April.

III. Communications

A. One ASR and one KSR were installed on-line 2 April to permit upgrading of the Caversham-PMU circuit to 100 wpm. Two M-19s are used as additional punching positions, and one M-15 serves as a stand-by receive unit.

B. Bureau technician Greenslade spent three days at PMU for equipment maintenance and installation.

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